



Legislative Bulletin.....July 30, 2001

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H.R. 2602—To extend the Export Administration Act until November 20, 2001 (Hyde)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered under a motion to suspend the rules on Monday, July 30th.

Summary: The bill would extend for three months the authorization for the Commerce Department to license for export dual-use products (i.e. products that have military and civilian applications), such as supercomputers, encryption tools, and other highly sophisticated technology. The current authorization is set to expire August 20, 2001.

Additional Background: According to the Committee on International Relations, legislation to reform the Export Administration Act will be marked up in their committee this congressional session. H.R. 2602 would extend the current Act's authorization while this reform legislation is being worked on.

Cost to Taxpayers: The legislation authorizes no additional expenditure.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No, it merely extends current law.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 191—Expressing the sense of the House that the UN should immediately transfer to the Israeli Government an unedited and uncensored videotape that contains images which could provide material evidence for the investigation into the abduction of three Israeli Defense Force soldiers by Hezbollah forces on October 7, 2000. (Kirk)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered under a motion to suspend the rules on Monday, July 30th.

Summary: This resolution states that the House calls upon the United Nations to immediately transfer to the Government of Israel: 1) an unedited and uncensored videotape that contains images which could provide material evidence for the investigation into the incident on October 7, 2000, when Hezbollah forces abducted three Israeli Defense Force soldiers, Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, and Omar Souad; and 2) any other material evidence the United Nations may possess to assist the Israeli investigation of this incident.

Additional Background: According to the resolution, on October 7, 2000, Hezbollah forces illegally crossed from Lebanon into Israel and kidnapped three Israeli Defense Force soldiers. No information on the whereabouts and conditions of these soldiers or on the events leading up to, surrounding, and immediately following the kidnapping is known.

After denying it for months, the United Nations has finally admitted to having a videotape containing images which could provide material evidence for the investigation into the kidnapping and remains reluctant to transfer an unedited version of the videotape to the Government of Israel.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.R. 2456—To provide that federal employees may retain for personal use promotional items received as a result of travel taken in the course of employment. (Burton)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered under a motion to suspend the rules on Monday, July 30th.

Summary: The bill would allow federal employees to keep for personal use promotional items (such as frequent flyer miles, upgrades, and access to airline clubs or facilities) they receive as a result of official travel (i.e. travel paid for with taxpayer dollars), as long as the promotional items are obtained under the same terms as those offered to the general public and at no additional cost to the government.

Additional Background: Members and staff of the House of Representatives (though not the Senate) are currently allowed to keep such promotional items derived from official travel for personal use. [See “Travel Promotional Awards” at this link to the Members’ Congressional Handbook: http://www.house.gov/cha/handbook/handbook1.htm#_Travel]

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Con.Res 190—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. (Ramstad)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered under a motion to suspend the rules on Monday, July 30th.

Summary: The resolution states that Congress supports the “goals and ideas” of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, which will be September 2001, as recognized by a number of organizations and individuals dedicated to fighting drug addiction. The resolution states that National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month “celebrates the tremendous achievements of individuals who have undergone successful addiction treatment and recognizes those in the field of addiction treatment who have dedicated their lives to helping people recover from addiction.”

Some other points in the text of the resolution include:

- 26,000,000 people in the United States are addicted to drugs or alcohol
- 85 percent of all crime in the United States is related to drug or alcohol addiction

- U.S. taxpayers paid more than \$150,000,000,000 in drug-related criminal and medical costs in 1997, for example, which is more than they spent in that year on education, transportation, agriculture, energy, space exploration, and foreign aid combined
- Each dollar invested in drug and alcohol treatment yields 7 dollars in savings from decreased health care costs, criminal justice costs, and work-related costs caused by absenteeism, injuries, and poor performance
- Treatment for addiction is as effective as treatments for other chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes and high blood pressure
- The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration sponsors the celebration of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month to encourage citizen action to help expand and improve the availability of effective addiction treatment
- The 2001 national campaign for National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month embraces the theme of “We Recover Together: Family, Friends and Community”

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.R. 100— National Science Education Act (Ehlers)

Order of Business: The bill is expected to be considered on Monday, July 30 under suspension of the rules.

Summary: The bill authorizes the following:

- **Master Teacher Grant Program**-- \$50 million a year (FY 2002-2004) for grants to colleges and universities to train master teachers and assist elementary and secondary schools design and implement master teacher programs. A master teacher helps improve science or math education by developing curricula, serving as a mentor to other teachers, coordinating and assisting other teachers, and providing professional development. Grants under the program to develop master teacher programs provide stipends to allow teachers to participate in professional development, support summer research of participating teachers, and provide educational material and equipment. Applications must demonstrate how activities will be aligned with state and local standards.
- **Information on Course of Study for Careers in Science, Math, Engineering, and Technology Education** – \$5 million a year (FY 2002-2004) to compile and disseminate information on typical prerequisites for middle school and high school students who want to study at an institution of higher education in science, mathematics, engineering, or

technology education for the purpose of teaching in an elementary or secondary school and the licensing requirements in each state for such teachers.

- **Study on Effectiveness of Technology in the Classroom** -- \$600,000
- **Science, Math, and Technology Business Education Conference** -- \$300,000 in FY 2002 and \$200,000 in FY 2003 and 2004 to conduct a conference for stakeholders in K-12 math, science, engineering, and technology education.
- **Distance Learning Grants** -- \$5 million a year (FY 2002-2004) to establish a program to award grants to institutions of higher education to provide distance learning opportunities in science or mathematics to elementary or secondary school students

The bill requires NSF to coordinate with the Department of Education.

Additional Background: RSC Members had raised concerns about creating additional education programs administered by the National Science Foundation, particularly since NSF was already running programs that some Members considered duplicative of those proposed in the bill. In response to the concerns raised by the RSC, the bill has been amended to include a new section requiring the termination of any duplicative programs and prohibiting the creation of any new programs that would be duplicative. The Office of Science and Technology at the White House is responsible for reporting on annual basis on Congress NSF's compliance with this provision. This agreement did not commit RSC Members to supporting the bill.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, the bill would cost taxpayers \$167 million over the 2002-2006 period.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: Yes, the bill authorizes specific programs as detailed above.

Constitutional Authority: The House Committee on Science cites Article I, Section 8, but fails to cite a specific clause.

Staff Contact: Neil Bradley, x6-9717

H.R. 1858— To Make Improvements in Mathematics and Science Education (Boehlert)

Order of Business: The bill is expected to be considered on Monday, July 30 under suspension of the rules.

Summary: The bill authorizes the following:

- **Mathematics & Science Education Partnerships** -- \$200 million a year (FY 2002-2006) for grants to colleges and universities or eligible non-profit organizations to establish mathematics and science education partnerships programs to improve the instruction of elementary and secondary science education. Funds can be used for virtually any purpose

provided they relate to the goal of improving education. Examples cited in the bill include distance learning, master teacher programs, development of assessment tools, and enrichment programs for girls.

- **Teacher Research Scholarship Program** – \$15 million a year (FY 2002-2006) to establish a program to award grants to colleges and universities or eligible non-profit organizations to provide research opportunities in mathematics, science, and engineering for elementary and secondary school teachers.
- **Education Digital Library** -- \$20 million a year (FY 2002-2006) to establish a program to expand the already existing National Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology Education Digital Library which includes materials related to curricula, conferences, and existing education programs.
- **Establish 4 Centers for Research on Learning and Education Improvement** -- \$12 million a year (FY 2002-2006) for grants to colleges or universities to establish 4 centers to research and apply cognitive sciences.
- **Education Research Teacher Fellowships** -- \$5 million a year (FY 2002 –2004) for grants to colleges and universities or eligible non-profit organizations to provide research opportunities related to the science of learning to elementary and secondary school teachers of science and mathematics.
- **Scholarship Program** -- \$20 million a year (FY 2002-2004) for grants to colleges and universities to provide scholarship for college juniors and seniors majoring in mathematics, science, or engineering who agree to become teachers after graduation. Scholarships are capped at \$7,500 a year or the costs of tuition (whichever is lower) and each recipients must teach for two years for each year they received a scholarship.
- **Educational Technology Research Centers** -- \$25 million for Fiscal Year 2002-2004 and \$30 million for Fiscal Years 2005 and 2006 for grants to colleges and universities to establish centers to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of information technologies in elementary and secondary mathematics and science education.
- **Education Technology Assistance** -- \$5 million a year (FY 2002-2004) for grants to colleges, universities, or education service agencies to establish centers to assist elementary and secondary schools in the use of information technology for mathematics, science, or technology instruction.

The bill requires NSF to coordinate with the Department of Education.

Additional Background: RSC Members had raised concerns about creating additional education programs administered by the National Science Foundation, particularly since NSF was already running programs that some Members considered duplicative of those proposed in the bill. In response to the concerns raised by the RSC, the bill has been amended to include a new section requiring the termination of any duplicative programs and prohibiting the creation of any new programs that would be duplicative. The Office of Science and Technology at the White House is responsible for reporting on annual basis on Congress NSF's compliance with this provision. This agreement did not commit RSC Members to supporting the bill.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, the bill would cost taxpayers **\$1.1 billion over the 2002-2006 period** and \$459 million after 2006.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: Yes, the bill authorizes specific programs as detailed above.

Constitutional Authority: The House Committee on Science cites Article I, Section 8, but fails to cite a specific clause.

Staff Contact: Neil Bradley, x6-9717

H.Res.xx -- United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance. (Lantos)

Order of Business: The resolution will be considered under suspension of the rules on Monday, July 30, 2001.

Summary: The UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (WCAR) will be held in Durban, South Africa, from August 31 through September 7, 2001.

The resolution contains 11 findings including:

“Whereas the causes and manifestations of contemporary racism, xenophobia, sexism, religious intolerance, slavery, and other forms of discrimination are many and increasingly complex and subtle;

“Whereas the attempt by some to use the WCAR as a platform to resuscitate the divisive and discredited notion equating Zionism with racism, a notion that was overwhelmingly rejected when United Nations Resolution 3379 (1975) was rescinded in 1991, would undermine the goals and objectives of the conference.”

In H.Res. xx, the House:

- “encourages all participants in the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (“WCAR”) **to seize this singular opportunity to tackle the scourges of racism, xenophobia, sexism, religious intolerance, slavery, and other forms of discrimination which have divided people and wreaked immeasurable suffering on the disempowered;**
- recognizes that racism, etc. exists in every country, so efforts to address the problems should be “without reference to specific regions, countries, or present-day conflicts;”
- exhorts participants to use the conference to mitigate, not aggravate racial, ethnic, and regional tensions

- urges the conference to focus on concrete steps “to address gross human rights violations that were motivated by racially and ethnically based animus and on devising strategies to help eradicate such intolerance;”
- and commends the Government of South Africa for hosting the conference

Note: According to the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute (C-FAM) a pro-family NGO active at UN conferences, the draft document on “Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance” included among the definitions for racism “discrimination” based on “sexual orientation.”

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing Constitutional Authority is unavailable.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules: No.

Further Background:

<http://www.hri.ca/racism/background/laurie.shtml>

The UN General Assembly resolution (15/111, December 12, 1997) put forward the following seven objectives for the conference:

1. To review progress made in the fight against racism and racial discrimination, to reappraise obstacles to progress in the field, and to devise ways to overcome them;
2. To consider how to ensure the better application of existing standards to combat racial discrimination;
3. To increase awareness about racism and its consequences;
4. To formulate concrete recommendations on how the activities and mechanisms of the UN can be more effective in fighting racism;
5. To review the political, historical, economic, social, cultural and other factors which have contributed to racism;
6. To make recommendations with regard to new national, regional and international measures that could be adopted to fight racism; and
7. To draw up recommendations to ensure that the United Nations has the necessary resources to combat racism and racial discrimination.

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H. RES. 132— Recognizing the historical significance of the sacrifices made by the Irish Republican hunger strikers of 1981 and the subsequent political impact their actions had on the Northern Ireland peace process. (Capuano)

Order of Business: The bill will be considered under suspension of the rules on Monday, July 30, 2001.

Summary: The resolution regarding the Irish hunger by 10 IRA members contains 6 findings including:

- Whereas in a hunger strike in 1981, Irish Republicans Bobby Sands, Francis Hughes, Ray McCreesh, Patsy O'Hara, Joe McDonnell, Martin Hurson, Kevin Lynch, Kieran Doherty, Thomas McElwee, and Michael Devine sacrificed their lives to bring world attention to the plight of Irish Republicans in the H-Block in Long Kesh Prison in Northern Ireland;
- Whereas the hunger strikers were protesting the conditions of the British prison system in which they were being held and the loss by Irish Republican prisoners of the right to political status;
- Whereas the hunger strikers brought world attention to the political landscape of the Northern Ireland struggle; and

H. Res. 132 resolves that the House:

“[R]ecognizes the historical significance of the sacrifices made by the Irish Republican hunger strikers of 1981 and the subsequent political impact their actions had on the Northern Ireland peace process.”

For more background on the hunger strikes go to:
<http://larkspirit.com/hungerstrikes/1980.html>

Cost to Taxpayers: None

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing Constitutional Authority is unavailable.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules: No.

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H.R. 1499 —To amend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 to permit individuals who graduated from a secondary school prior to 1998 and individuals who enroll in an institution of higher education more than 3 years after graduating from a secondary school to participate in the tuition assistance programs under such Act, and for other purposes. (Norton)

Order of Business: The bill will be considered under suspension of the rules on Monday, July 30, 2001.

Summary: This bill expands upon a law passed in 1999, sponsored by Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA). The 1999 law (HR 974) was voice voted twice in the House (5/24/99 and 11/1/99). The bill established the D.C. Tuition Assistance Program to provide scholarships for undergraduate education to D.C. residents ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 per year. Scholarships to attend public higher education institutions throughout the country, as well as some private institutions were available to high schoolers graduating or receiving GEDs since January 1, 1998 as long as they began undergraduate study within 3 years.

In 2000, 3,200 D.C. students applied for funding. H.R. 1499 will amend the law to include any eligible DC resident who has ever received a high school diploma and will delete the requirement that undergraduate study begin within 3 years of graduating.

Cost to Taxpayers: In 1999, CBO estimated that full funding of the House-passed DC Tuition Assistance Program would cost \$77 million in fiscal year 2000 and \$395 million over the 2000 to 2004 period. This version, like H.R. 1499 allowed *any* graduate to apply, but unlike HR 1499 it did require study to begin within three years of graduating. The final version signed into law and limited to 1998 and later graduates authorized \$17 million in FY00. According to CRS, in 2000 3,200 applicants applied for the tuition grants, for which \$17 million of *federal* funding (not DC funds) was appropriated. In FY01, Congress again appropriated \$17 million in *federal* funds.

Cost to the Taxpayer: No CBO score is available for H.R. 974, but it may score higher than \$100 million a year.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing Constitutional Authority is unavailable

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules: YES, it expands who qualifies for federal grants for undergraduate tuition, from DC high school graduates since 1998, to *any* high school graduate from DC.

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